P21188.A07 TRADELLES



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hiroshi NOMURA et al. Confirmation No.: 6245

Appln. No. : 09/961,233 Group Art Unit: 2872

Filed: September 24, 2001 Examiner: J. L. PRITCHETT

For : LENS BARREL

## COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commission for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202
Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark

Office on December 14, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached
thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability
of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with
the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the
references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a
particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these
claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

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